

REMARKS

Claims 27, 30 – 32, 34, 35, 37 – 42 and 47 – 56 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 – 26, 33, 36 and 43 – 46 were previously canceled, and claims 28 and 29 are being canceled by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In section 5 of the Office Action, claims 27, 28, 31, 34, 35, 37 - 42, 47 - 50, 55 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)¹ as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,195,201 to Koch et al. (hereinafter "the Koch et al. patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,072 to Nojima (hereinafter "the Nojima patent"). Claims 27, 37, 47, 49 and 55 are independent claims. Applicant is rewriting claims 27, 37 and 55 so that they each now provide for a projection exposure system, and further clarifying an aspect of claims 27, 37, 47, 49 and 55 that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited combination of the Koch et al. and Nojima patents.

Claim 27 provides for a projection exposure system. The system includes, *inter alia*, an illumination system that, in turn, includes (a) a plate having a plurality of raster elements situated thereon, (b) a carrier upon which the plate is arranged, for positioning the plate relative to a light beam, and (c) a reticle plane defined by a y-direction and an x-direction. The carrier is moveable along a line in the x-direction, and the projection exposure system scans the reticle plane in the y-direction.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither of the Koch et al. patent nor the Nojima patent, whether considered alone or in combination with one another, disclose or suggest **a carrier that is moveable along a line in the x-direction, and a projection exposure system that scans a reticle plane in the y-direction**, as recited in claim 27. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 27 is patentable over the cited combination of the Koch et al. and Nojima patents.

Claims 37, 47, 49 and 55 each includes a recital similar to that described above for claim 27. Thus, claims 37, 47, 49 and 55, similarly to claim 27, are patentable over the cited combination of the Koch et al. and Nojima patents.

Claims 31, 34 and 35 depend from claim 27; claims 38 - 42 depend from claim 37; claim 48 depends from claim 47; claim 50 depends from claim 27; and claim 56 depends from claim 55. By virtue of these dependencies, claims 31, 34, 35, 38 - 42, 48, 50 and 56 are also patentable over the cited combination of the Koch et al. and Nojima patents.

Claim 28 is canceled, and as such, the rejection thereof is rendered moot.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claims 27, 28, 31, 34, 35, 37 - 42, 47 - 50, 55 and 56.

In section 6 of the Office Action, claims 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Koch et al. patent in view of the Nojima patent, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,976 to Hatakeyama et al. (hereinafter "the Hatakeyama et al. patent").

Claim 29 is canceled, and as such, the rejection thereof is rendered moot.

Claim 30 depends from claim 27. Applicants respectfully submit that the Hatakeyama et al. patent does not make up for the deficiencies of the Koch et al. and Nojima patents, as the Koch et al. and Nojima patents relate to claim 27. Accordingly, Applicants further submit that claim 27, and claim 30, by virtue of its dependence on claim 27, are both patentable over the cited combination of the Koch et al., Nojima and Hatakeyama et al. patents.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claims 29 and 30.

¹ Section 5 of the Office Action states that the claims are being rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). However, whereas the rejection is based on a combination of references, it is apparent that the rejection is being made under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rather than under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

In section 7 of the Office Action, claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Koch et al. patent in view of the Nojima patent, and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0196416 to Shiraishi (hereinafter "the Shiraishi publication").

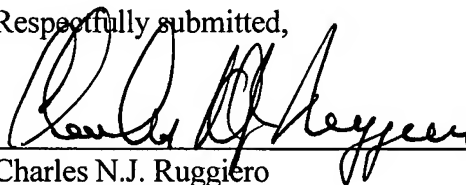
Claim 32 depends from claim 27. Applicants respectfully submit that the Shiraishi publication does not make up for the deficiencies of the Koch et al. and Nojima patents, as the Koch et al. and Nojima patents relate to claim 27. Accordingly, Applicants further submit that claim 27, and claim 32, by virtue of its dependence on claim 27, are both patentable over the cited combination of the Koch et al. patent, the Nojima patent, and the Shiraishi publication.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claim 32.

As mentioned above, Applicants are clarifying an aspect of claims 27, 37, 47, 49 and 55 that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited combination of the Koch et al. and Nojima patents. Applicants are also amending claims 30 - 32, 34, 35, 38 - 42, 50 - 52 and 56, for consistency with the claims from which they depend. None of the amendments is intended to narrow the meaning of any term of the claims, and therefore, the doctrine of equivalents should be available for all of the elements of all of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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